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Fact Sheet #4

Naturally-Occurring Asbestos Around Your Home

- This fact sheet is intended to provide information for homeowners who may have naturally-occurring asbestos sources, such as dust from unpaved roads or driveways surfaced with serpentine rock, near their homes. Other sources of asbestos dust from serpentine rock include disturbed serpentine rock deposits on your land, or nearby construction, quarrying operations, and mines. This fact sheet does not address asbestos from asbestos-containing products used or found in the home.
- Any action to minimize dust generation from naturally-occurring asbestos sources will generally help to reduce your exposure. First identify the location of serpentine rock or faults on your property. If you are unsure whether the rock is serpentine, a registered geologist can be contacted. Some suggestions to consider to reduce dust generation include:
 - paving over unpaved walkways, driveways, or roadways which contain serpentine rock;
 - having crushed serpentine rock in yards/gardens covered with clean soil;
 - having family members and guests remove shoes at the door to reduce track-in (a major entry route of outdoor asbestos fibers);
 - keeping windows and doors closed on windy days and during periods when nearby serpentine rock may be disturbed, such as during construction;
 - using a wet rag to dust, as opposed to a feather duster; and
 - using washable area rugs on your floors.
- If you are concerned about asbestos in your home, you may consider contacting a qualified expert to have your home tested. We recommend that you contact a certified asbestos consultant and/or a certified analytical laboratory. You can obtain a list of these certified consultants and laboratories by calling the Air Resources Board's Monitoring and Laboratory Division at (916) 327-0900. Collection of samples can be expensive. Analytical costs for bulk samples and air samples can be found in Fact Sheet #5.
- If you choose to remove any asbestos found in your home, it is recommended that you contact a qualified professional with training in asbestos removal. These professionals use special equipment such as high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter vacuum cleaners, which are designed to remove the smaller asbestos fibers. Normal home

vacuum cleaners are typically not designed to capture these tiny fibers and may only scatter them throughout the house. However, if the source of asbestos in your home is from naturally-occurring asbestos, unless those sources are controlled, the asbestos may return.

- Fact Sheet #3 addresses ways to control asbestos dust from exposed serpentine areas, construction projects, and roadways.

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